

REMARKS

The Examiner's Office Action of December 9, 2004 has been received and its contents reviewed. Applicants have filed a Request for Continued Examination, and further, would like to thank the Examiner for the consideration given to the above-identified application.

By this Amendment, claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 18 have been amended, claim 1 has been previously canceled, and new claims 21-24 have been added. Accordingly, claims 2-24 are pending for consideration, of which claims 2, 4, 6, 10, 13, 16 and 18 are independent. By the actions above and the remarks below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5) as including numerical labels 13, 22, 23, and 24 in Fig. 1, and numerical label 29 in Fig. 5 that are not mentioned in the specification. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the specification to provide a description for each of these numerically labeled features, and to correct the duplicate usage of the numerical label 30. Accordingly, the objections to the drawings are respectfully requested to be reconsidered and withdrawn.

On page 4 of the Office Action, in an objection to the claims, Applicants are advised that should claim 17 be found allowable, claim 20 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. By the foregoing amendment, Applicants have amended the dependency of claim 17 to depend from claim 16. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this issue has now been resolved since claims 20 and 17 depend from different independent claims and therefore request withdrawal of the claim objection.

Also on page 4 of the Office Action, claims 8, 9 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Specifically, the Office Action indicates that the specification is enabling for superposing a continuous electromagnetic wave on a pulsed electromagnetic wave on a pulsed electromagnetic wave in the art of depositing a film by plasma CVD, wherein the power value of the pulsed electromagnetic wave is higher than the power value of the continuous electromagnetic wave. However, the Office Action alleges that the specification does not reasonably provide enablement for broadly superposing a continuous electromagnetic wave on a pulsed electromagnetic wave in general in a plasma CVD film formation process, as to which claims 8, 9 and 17-20 are open.

In response thereto, Applicants have amended each of independent claims 8 and 18 to recite that "a power value of said pulsed electromagnetic wave is higher than a power value of said continuous electromagnetic wave." In view of this amendment, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

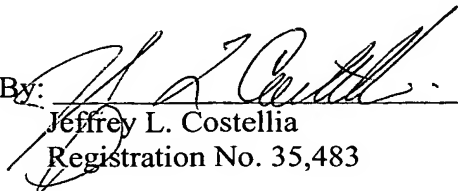
Starting on page 7 of the Office Action, claims 2-20 are rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-9 and 11-14 of U.S. Patent No. 6,660,342 (Miyanaga et al.). Also, claims 2-20 are rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-15 of U.S. Patent No. 5,626,922 (Miyanaga et al.). In view of the amendments to the independent claims, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

Specifically, all of the independent claims have been amended to recite that the reactive gas is introduced in a direction toward a surface of an object. Applicants respectfully submit that none of the claims in either of the Miyanaga patents teaches or suggests this combination of features. Thus Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all the pending rejections.

While the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any Previously Presented issues arise which could be eliminated through discussions with Applicants' representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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